



Senate

File No. 706

General Assembly

January Session, 2003

(Reprint of File No. 286)

Substitute Senate Bill No. 647
As Amended by House
Amendment Schedule "A"

Approved by the Legislative Commissioner
May 15, 2003

AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICE BY STUDENTS AS OFFICIAL CHECKERS AT POLLING PLACES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 9-235d of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2003*):

3 (a) Notwithstanding any provision of sections 9-233, 9-235 and 9-258
4 to the contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen or seventeen
5 years of age and a bona fide resident of a town may be (1) appointed as
6 a challenger [, voting machine tender] or unofficial checker in an
7 election, [and, after serving as an unofficial checker in an election or as
8 a candidate checker in a primary, may be appointed as a checker in a
9 subsequent election] or (2) appointed as a checker, translator or voting
10 machine tender in an election after (A) attending poll worker training,
11 and (B) receiving the written permission of a parent, guardian or the
12 principal of the school that the citizen attends if the citizen is a
13 secondary school student and the citizen is to be appointed to work on
14 a day when such school is in session.

15 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of section 9-436 or 9-436a to the
16 contrary, a United States citizen who is sixteen or seventeen years of
17 age and a bona fide resident of a town or political subdivision holding
18 a primary may be (1) appointed as a challenger [, voting machine
19 tender] or candidate checker in the primary, [and, after serving as a
20 candidate checker in a primary or as an unofficial checker in an
21 election, may be appointed as a checker in a subsequent primary] or (2)
22 appointed as a checker, translator or voting machine tender in a
23 primary after (A) attending poll worker training, and (B) receiving the
24 written permission of a parent, guardian or the principal of the school
25 that the citizen attends if the citizen is a secondary school student and
26 the citizen is to be appointed to work on a day when such school is in
27 session.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	July 1, 2003

The following fiscal impact statement and bill analysis are prepared for the benefit of members of the General Assembly, solely for the purpose of information, summarization, and explanation, and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either House thereof for any purpose:

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact: None

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

This bill, which allows a 16 or 17 year old who has received the permission of the school principal, to serve as a checker, translator, or voting machine tender at an election or primary polling place, has no fiscal impact on the state.

House "A" allows the 16 or 17 year old to submit written permission from a parent or guardian, instead of from the school principal. House "A" also adds that the student only needs permission when the election is held on a school day. This has no fiscal impact on the state.

OLR Bill Analysis

sSB 647 (as amended by House "A")*

AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICE BY STUDENTS AS OFFICIAL CHECKERS AT POLLING PLACES**SUMMARY:**

This bill removes the requirement that a 16- or 17-year-old serve as an unofficial checker or a candidate checker before being appointed as a checker in a polling place at an election or a primary. It permits the appointment after the person attends poll worker training and, if the person is a high school student and the primary or election is held on a day when school is in session, has received written permission from a parent, guardian, or the school principal. The bill also permits such youth to serve as translators at a polling place and requires the training and permission for appointment as a voting machine tender or translator.

By law, a 16- or 17-year-old poll worker must be a U.S. citizen and resident of the town where the primary or election is held. Current law (1) permits such a person to serve as a challenger, voting machine tender, unofficial checker, candidate checker, or checker and (2) requires such a person to have served as an unofficial checker in an election or as a candidate checker in a primary before being eligible for appointment as a checker in a subsequent election or primary.

*House Amendment "A" (1) requires the permission for a student only when the election is held on a school day; (2) allows a student to submit permission from a parent or guardian, instead of from the school principal; and (3) requires that the permission be in writing.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2003

BACKGROUND***Legislative History***

On April 15, the House referred the bill (File 286) to the Education

Committee, which reported it without any change.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Government Administration and Elections Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 15 Nay 0

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Report

Yea 24 Nay 0